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PATENT APPLICATION

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In re the Application of

Valerie CHEYNET-SAUVION et al.

Application No.: 09/402,131

Filed: December 8, 1999



Group Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: B. Sisson

Docket No.: 104458

For: RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE FUNCTIONING PREFERABLY ON RNA MATRIX AND PROMOTER-DEPENDENT TRANSCRIPTION PROCESS WITH SAID RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 3, 2000, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 35-47, drawn to a method of amplifying an RNA target sequence, with traverse.

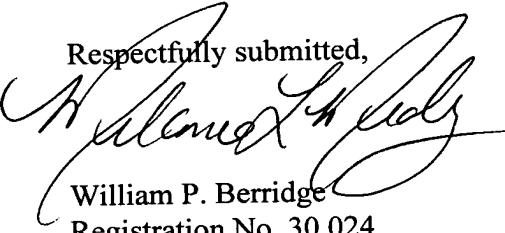
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of claims 35-68 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, a search and examination of the non-elected claims with the claims of Group I would not place a serious additional burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P. §803 states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in

the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and
duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 65-68 are not listed as being a
member of any of Groups I-III. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner clarify the
status of these claims in the next Patent Office communication.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction
Requirement. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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WPB:MLM/jca

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